

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. NAKAGAWA et al

Serial No.

Filed: May 23, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SAMPLING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination thereof, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claim 3 as follows:

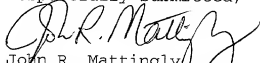
3. (Amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

(A07) said fixed frame is constructed so as to be attachable to and detachable from a mirror cylinder which supports the object lens of said optical microscope.

REMARKS

Examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1
[or 2] wherein

(A07) said fixed frame is constructed so as to be
attachable to and detachable from a mirror cylinder which
supports the object lens of said optical microscope.